

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

--1. (Previously Presented) A data decoding apparatus comprising:

decoding means for decoding one of encoded and encrypted digital data;

memory means for storing monitoring data; and

charge control means for performing a charging process by changing the monitoring data in the memory means in accordance with an instruction of reproducing conditions information associated with the digital data when the digital data are decoded.

--2. (Previously Presented) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising identifier memory means for storing an identifier of the decoded digital data and decoding conditions, wherein a log remains in the identifier memory means after the decoding of the digital data.

--3. (Previously Presented) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an interface that safely exchanges data with an external apparatus by encrypting the data, wherein the monitoring data are stored in the memory means through the interface.

--4. (Previously Presented) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the interface has contactless communicating means.

--5. (Previously Presented) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the interface has electric power receiving means;

and the data in the memory means are accessed through the interface when a power source of an apparatus main body is not supplied.

--6. (Previously Presented) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an interface that safely exchanges data with an external apparatus by encrypting the data,

wherein log data in the memory means are outputted, inputted, and changed through the interface.

--7. (Previously Presented) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the interface has contactless communicating means.

--8. (Previously Presented) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the interface has electric power receiving means and the data in the memory means are accessed

through the interface when a power source of an apparatus main body is not supplied.

--9. (Previously Presented) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the digital data are decoded, one of a part of the reproducing conditions information, all of the reproducing conditions information, and a result obtained by performing an arithmetic operation on the reproducing conditions information is embedded as a watermark that is decoded into the output data.

--10. (Previously Presented) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the digital data are decoded and a watermark has been added, the data embedded in the watermark are decoded and the decoded data are outputted when the decoded watermark data are equal to a normal value obtained from the reproducing conditions information.

--11. (Previously Presented) A data decoding method comprising the steps of:

decoding one of encoded and encrypted digital data; and
performing a changing process by changing stored monitoring data in accordance with reproducing conditions information associated with the digital data when the digital data are decoded.

Claims 12-48 (Cancelled)

--49. (Previously Presented) A decoding apparatus comprising:

a decoding unit for performing a decoding process to compressed and encrypted data including data read from a medium and corresponding to reproducing conditions;

a storing unit for storing monitoring data; and

a control unit for performing a changing process to the monitoring data stored in the storing unit on the basis of the data corresponding to the reproducing conditions separated by the decoding unit when the read data are decoded and are targets of charging.

--50. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein when the read data are not the targets of the charging, the control unit does not change the monitoring data stored in the storing unit.

--51. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, further comprising a converting unit for converting output data outputted from the decoding unit into an analog signal.

--52. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein reproduction history information of the read data decoded by the decoding unit are stored in the storing unit.

--53. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 52, further comprising a communicating unit, wherein the reproduction history information is outputted to an external apparatus through the communicating unit and the monitoring data are stored in the storing unit.

--54. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 53, wherein an operation electric power is supplied to the apparatus from an exterior source through the communicating unit.

--55. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the decoding unit comprises a decoder for decoding the encryption performed on the read data and a decompressing unit for decompressing the data decoded by the decoder.

--56. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, further comprising a watermark detecting unit for detecting whether a watermark has been added to output data outputted from the decoding unit, wherein when the watermark is not detected the output data from the decoding unit are outputted.

--57. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 56, wherein when the data regarding the

reproducing conditions are included in the watermark detected by the watermark detecting unit the control unit collates the output data with the data regarding the reproducing conditions extracted from the data read from the medium and outputs the output data from the decoding unit when the data corresponding to the reproducing conditions detected by the watermark detecting unit coincides with the data corresponding to the reproducing conditions extracted from the data read from the medium.

--58. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 56, wherein when the data regarding the reproducing conditions detected by the watermark detecting unit does not coincide with the data regarding the reproducing conditions extracted from the data read from the medium, the control unit does not output the output data from the decoding unit.

--59. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 58, wherein the decoding unit has a reproducing conditions detecting unit for extracting the data regarding the reproducing conditions from the read data.

--60. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 57, further comprising a watermark adding unit for adding a watermark formed on the basis of the data regarding the reproducing conditions, wherein when the

watermark cannot correctly be detected from the output data outputted from the decoding unit by the watermark detecting unit the watermark adding unit forms the watermark and adds the watermark to the output data from the decoding unit.

--61. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 60, wherein when the watermark is correctly detected from the output data from the decoding unit by the watermark detecting unit the watermark adding unit does not add the watermark.

--62. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the decoding unit, the storing unit, and said control unit are constructed as one chip.

--63. (Previously Presented) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein when the monitoring data stored in the storing unit indicate that the read data cannot be reproduced[, said] the control unit stops the decoding process of the read data by the decoding unit.

Claims 64-86 (Cancelled)